



Special Edition: The MCDHH Staff

Executive Director



Opeoluwa Sontonwa

Mr. Opeoluwa Sontonwa joined the MCDHH staff on July 14, 2014 as the new Executive Director. He recently came from the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), where he coordinated statewide advocacy referrals for deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians. Mr. Sontonwa has been involved with disability rights issues since becoming a lawyer in Nigeria. An Arthur Scandrett Scholar, he also holds a LL.M. (Master of Laws) from the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where he graduated Cum Laude.

Mr. Sontonwa is currently the Vice President of National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA). He is the Chairman of the NBDA Board of Directors as well as several key committees within the NBDA, including the Bylaws, Media and Communication, and Advocacy and Policy committees. In addition to his service with NBDA, he is a member of the Diversity Committee within the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD). Mr. Sontonwa is a member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), as well as several think-tank organizations that focus on disability rights advocacy. In 2011, Governor Steve Beshear bestowed him the highest civilian honor of the Order of Kentucky Colonels in recognition of his exceptional services to Kentuckians with hearing loss.



Executive Secretary



Mary Sheridan

Mary Sheridan is the Executive Secretary of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Mary graduated from North Callaway High School. Shortly after graduation she became employed at The Callaway Bank. In 1984 she began her career with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as a secretary with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. After 16 years with Vocational Rehabilitation she accepted the position of Executive Secretary with The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing where she has remained for 13 years.

MICS Coordinator



Peggy Withrow

Peggy Withrow is the MICS Coordinator for the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Peggy graduated from William Woods University in 1998 with her B.S. degree in ASL/English Interpretation and received her MICS Comprehensive Certification in 2002. She has been an interpreter with Columbia Interpreting Services since 1999 where she worked in a variety of settings including post-secondary, medical, legal, mental health, and vocational rehabilitation. For the past five years, she has also worked as a video relay interpreter for Sorenson Communications. In 2007 she became an evaluator for the Missouri Interpreter Certification System. An Associate Member of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), she chairs the bylaws committee for the Missouri Chapter of RID (MO-RID).



Community Support Liaison



Christopher Ludvigsen

Christopher Ludvigsen is the Community Support Liaison for Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of hearing. He is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and a graduate of Brentwood High School. He is an alumnus of Gallaudet University located in Washington, D.C., where he received his B.S. in Business Administration in 2008. He was President of the Greater St. Louis Chapter (GSLC) under Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD) before coming into this position. Chris is currently studying for his M.A. in Management & Leadership from Webster University. He went to Australia during his sophomore year of High School and would like to go back to visit again one day.

Staff Interpreter



Crystal Anderson

Crystal Anderson holds MICS Comprehensive certification and CI/CT certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She graduated from William Woods University with a Bachelors of Arts in Sign Language Interpretation in 2001. After becoming certified and licensed she began working as a freelance interpreter in the mid-Missouri area. Crystal has also worked as a staff interpreter for an interpreting agency, interpreted in a Missouri school district, as well as managed a call center for Sorenson Communications. She has interpreted in many settings such as educational, VRS, VRI, medical and platform. Crystal brings both knowledge and experience to the job, having served as a member of the Missouri Interpreter Conference Planning Committee and as an evaluator for the Missouri Interpreter Certification System for a number of years.